

SECRET

27 March 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 27 March 1981

The Director was in the chair. []

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The Director noted that his sessions this week on the budget with the House Appropriations Committee went well. He commented that the briefing on counterintelligence given the SSCI conveyed some degree of confusion over allocations of responsibility for CI and how the system comes together.

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The DDCI announced that Clarke was retiring on 17 April and that John McMahon would replace him as D/NFAC. Later in the meeting Clarke explained that plans to retire commenced more than a year ago due to family reasons.

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The Director noted that today's NFIC meeting would deal with E.O. 12036. The DDCI noted that the session was mainly to allow other members of the Community the opportunity of discussing their views on revisions to the Executive Order. []

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Hitz reported that he and the Assistant NIO/USSR were going to brief Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr. (R., TN) today on the situation in Poland.

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Clarke discussed the 25 March SIG session on Poland which he and the A/NIO/USSR attended. He noted that the meeting covered East-West trade, the political situation, and contingency plans in the event the Soviets intervene in Poland. The Director noted that the Secretary of State told him that decisions have been made on what to do in the event of intervention.

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Hetu reported that the Agency is being sued by former employee [] because of a decision made by the Publications Review Board which deleted a reference to an operation, which has never been divulged, from an article

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In response to Hetu's question about the cessation of the back-ground briefing program, the Director reaffirmed his decision to discontinue the program because it takes too much of the analysts' time. Hetu said he would convey this when asked for a briefing but expects there will be much complaining from correspondents, many of which have taken this service for granted over the years. []

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In response to Fitzwater's question of whether the Director or DDCI could make a brief appearance at the 4 April Credit Union meeting of all retirees, the Director said he or the DDCI would do so. The DDCI said a check of their respective calendars would be required. []

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Fitzwater suggested lifting the moratorium on Agency-wide vacancy notices, the DDCI agreed. []

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Lehman briefed on the situation in Poland and said there is nothing new that would change one's view about immediate intervention. Lehman highlighted the military and political situations and noted the 29 March Polish Communist Party Central Community Plenum which will be a critical point in the situation. Lehman said that if the moderates at this Plenum win out over the issue of compromising with the Solidarity Front, the odds of intervention go up sharply. Lehman noted we cannot be certain if the Soviets are in a good posture to move; the DDCI thinks we will get at least 48 hours warning time before any intervention. This does not mean that the Soviets could not provide immediate support to the Polish authorities if required. Lehman said that an Alert Memorandum at this time would not inform anyone of anything new and added the time to issue an Alert Memorandum will be when we begin to get indications and evidence of Soviet movements. The Director instructed that a clearer statement of the types of warning and the situation [] Clarke said that NFAC would have full staffing over the weekend to monitor the situation. The Director said Secretary Haig believes, based on information he has received, that the Soviets will intervene. []

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The DDCI said he would be at NSA all day Monday and Tuesday to complete the turnover of his command and starting 1 April, he will be on board here full time.

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